[Mr. A. Lekshminarayana Aiyar].

perhaps refer to a recent activity of the Research Department of the Travancore University. To overcome the increasing difficulty experienced in getting Formic acid and Acetic acid which were formerly imported and used as coagulants in the production of rubber in the estates, Sulpholex, an ersatz material prepared according to the formula developed by the Central Research Institute has been marketed by the Travancore Sugars and Chemicals Ltd. This has supplied a vital necessity without which the Rubber Industry may have suffered serious lost. The Research Department of the University has been very efficiently continuing its other activities also.

24. *Industries.* In order to meet enquiries relating to machines and equipments for small scale industries and also to assist in the growth and development of many new industries in the State, especially those of small scale as also advanced cottage industries, it is proposed to open an industrial machinery show-room. Various engineering firms and inventors of labour saving devices for cottage and other industries will be invited to display specimens of their machinery in that show-room.

25. *Agriculture.* As the most vital need of the country at the present moment is the increased production of food-stuffs, the department has organised in co-operation with the Public Works and the Electrical departments a vigorous campaign for the extension of the area under cultivation of different food crops, the extension of punja cultivation and the application of scientific manures to the areas already brought under the plough to secure larger yields. Sixteen manure depots have been opened in different centres for the sale of suitable manure mixtures for paddy and tapioca to ryots on the security of their crops.

26. *Medical.* The Medical department is at present the only major department of the State which is completely centralized in its administration with no District officers for any intermediate supervision or control. Provision has therefore been made in the next year's budget for a scheme for the better and more efficient administration of the department on a decentralised basis by the appointment of a few District Officers. There is also a liberal provision in the Budget for the opening of new dispensaries to cater to the needs of the labouring classes at Kallar and Kalaketty and for providing better amenities in the existing medical institutions, such as the construction of up-to-date Sanitary arrangements in the Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar Memorial Ward attached to the District Hospital, Quilon, and purchase of equipments for the new block of the Ophthalmic Hospital at Trivandrum.

27. *Public Health.* The House may not be unware that the maternity and child welfare service started in ten rural centres in 1118 as an experimental measure in the first instance having proved itself very useful to the public was made a permanent arrangement

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